

Detroit Regenerative Digital Commons

Advancing Digital Inclusion, Education, and Community Ownership in Detroit

Partners: Community Internet | Merit Network | Wayne State University | City of Detroit | Rocket Community Fund

The Opportunity

Detroit's digital divide limits access to education and opportunity. The new eduroam expansion provides a foundation for secure Wi-Fi access. Community Internet introduces cooperative models to extend and localize this work.

- Goal: Build a community-owned digital ecosystem connecting infrastructure, education, and shared prosperity.

Shared Mission

- Bridge the Digital Divide – Secure access for all Detroiters.
- Empower Local Capacity – Train and certify digital stewards.
- Foster Regenerative Economies – Build sustainable co-ops.
- Build Ownership – Co-govern broadband infrastructure.

Strategic Partners & Roles

- Merit Network – Expand eduroam; support cooperative broadband pilots.
- Wayne State University – Co-develop curriculum; host equity symposium.
- City of Detroit – Provide pilot zones, policy support, and recognition.
- Rocket Community Fund – Fund scholarships and impact metrics.

Core Program Components

- Digital Stewards Academy – Train residents, reward with Podcoin tokens.
- Cooperative Learning Circles – Premium memberships & scholarships.
- Regenerative Economy Lab – Incubate local co-ops and microenterprises.

Implementation Roadmap

- Phase 1 (0–6 months): Pilot 3 neighborhoods; train 50 digital stewards.
- Phase 2 (6–12 months): Expand to 10 neighborhoods; launch learning circles.
- Phase 3 (Year 2+): Establish Regenerative Lab; scale model nationally.

Impact Goals

- 20,000 Detroiters gain secure Wi-Fi access.
- 1,000 residents complete cooperative education programs.
- 250 local jobs created through new enterprises.
- \$5M in local value generated through Podcoin exchanges.

Funding Strategy

- Rocket Community Fund – \$1.5M: Scholarships & pilot funding.
- City of Detroit – \$250K: Infrastructure and public access nodes.
- Wayne State University – \$200K in-kind: Faculty & facilities.
- Merit Network – \$150K: Technical support & integration.
- Community Internet – \$300K in-kind: Platform & management.

Call to Action

Join us in co-designing Detroit's regenerative digital future.

- Partner on training, education, and cooperative innovation.
- Invest in community-owned broadband and regenerative economies.
- Empower Detroiters to own their digital destiny.